

## **Residents share thoughts about health care**

**By Kelly Hawes**  
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LEAGUE CITY — Denise Glaze says she turned out for a community meeting Monday night with a simple goal.

“I’ve been through hell and high water,” she said. “I don’t want anyone else to have to go through it.”

Glaze was among eight people who turned out Monday night for a meeting called to discuss the future of the American health care system. The session, sponsored by the Center to Eliminate Health Disparities at the University of Texas Medical Branch, was the first of three this week in Galveston County.

Jennifer Mineo, the center’s coordinator of marketing and communications, told the audience that the meeting was part of a national effort sponsored by the Citizens Health Care Working Group. She said the group planned to use the input from the meetings in forming recommendations to be forwarded to Congress and the president.

“So Galveston County will have input in the recommendations,” Mineo said. “I think it’s pretty neat.”

In an interview before the meeting, Glaze said her husband first lost his job and then fell ill with Hodgkins and non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

“We’re doing chemo for the second time,” she said. “We live in the hospital.”

The Glazes drive back and forth to Galveston for doctors’ visits and radiation treatment.

“In April, we were home maybe four days,” she said.

Friends and family members have been helping out with the house payments.

“Utilities get paid when we can,” she said.

The Glazes qualify for Galveston County’s indigent health care program, but Glaze complained about the bureaucracy that required them periodically to reapply.

**“In March, it took four weeks, so we missed two appointments,” she said, “and nothing has changed except he’s gotten sicker.”**

**She said it was hard enough to deal with the illness.**

**“You get put into a traumatic situation, and you have to deal with all of this paperwork, too,” she said.**

**Mineo asked those who turned out for the meeting what they would like to see in the way of a health care system.**

**“Two words,” said Trey Schoelkopf. “Socialized medicine.”**

**Part of the exercise at Monday’s meeting was for the audience to go through what they would like to see in a health plan. Would they like the plan to cover routine physicals and immunizations? Would they want dental care? Eye exams? Physical therapy?**

**Sue Brooks said the answer was simple.**

**“If I have a wreck on the way home, I’m going to want emergency care,” she said, “but if I have a chronic illness, I’m going to want that covered.”**

**Dick Venier agreed.**

**“All of these things are important if you have need of it,” he said.**

**Schoelkopf said his goal would be to make basic health care available to everyone.**

**“Either way, we eventually pay for it,” he said. “The question is how it’s delivered and what it’s going to cost.”**

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### **More Meetings**

**The Center to Eliminate Health Disparities at the University of Texas Medical Branch plans two more meetings this week:**

- Today: The Jesse Tree, Mainland Medical Center, 10000 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway, Texas City.**
- Wednesday: Wortham Auditorium, Rosenberg Library, 2310 Sealy Ave., Galveston.**

**The meetings will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Information:  
<http://www.citizenshealthcare.gov/>**

The week will also feature the second annual prayer breakfast, where State Rep. Garnett Coleman will be the keynote speaker. The event will be from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Moody Memorial First United Methodist Church, 2803 53rd St., in Galveston.

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